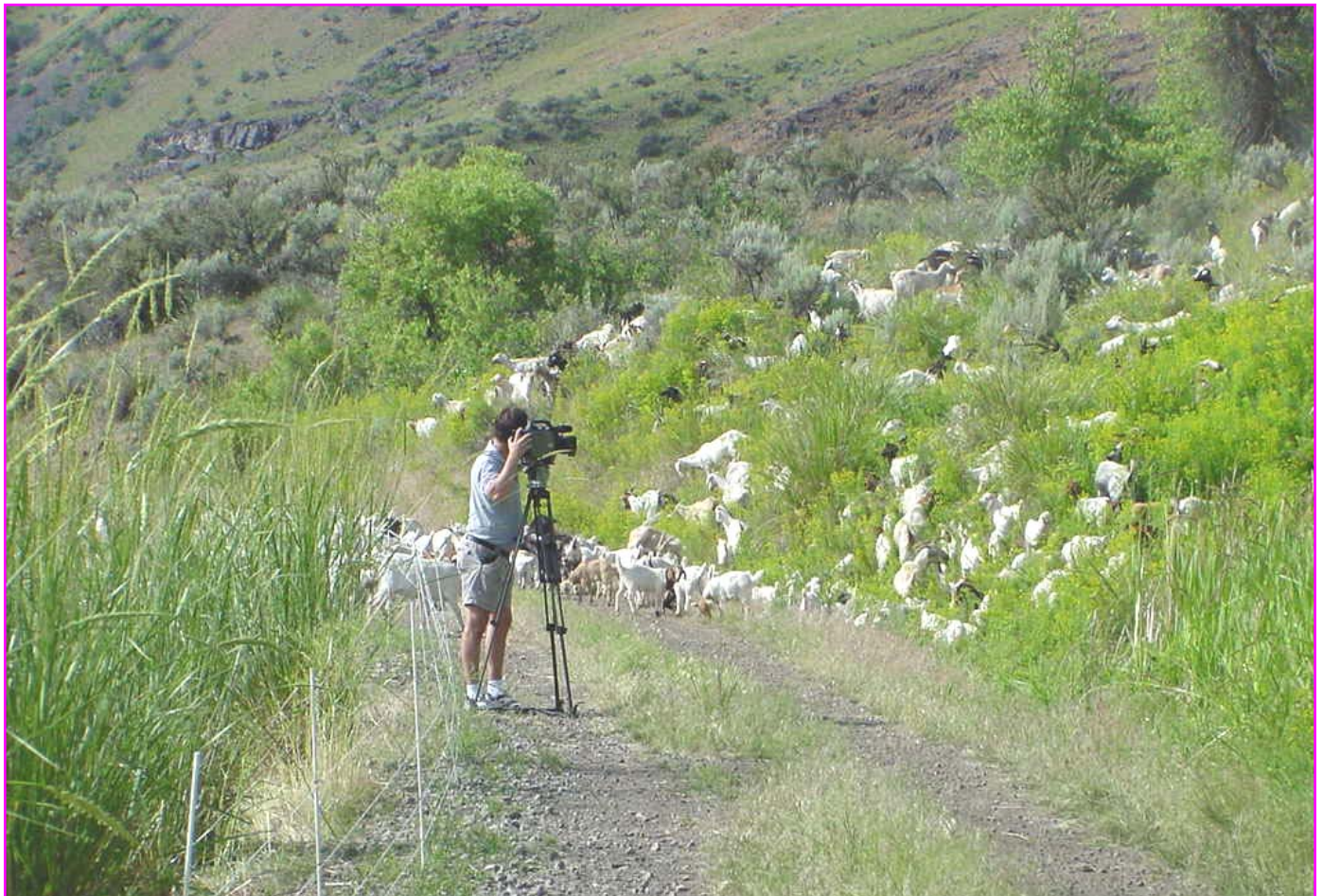


END OF YEAR REPORT 2003 LOWER WEISER RIVER CWMA



The LWRCWMA in conjunction with the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign promoted this alternative weed control method throughout Idaho this past summer. The commercial featured goat grazing to control Leafy spurge and was aired on local television stations during the project.

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WELCOME TO THE LOWER WEISER RIVER CWMA

The Lower Weiser River Cooperative Weed Management Area is a grass roots organization dedicated to the noxious weed war. The strategy of this weed management area is to increase awareness and foster cooperation among private landowners, local, state, and federal agencies as well as others who may have an interest in regards to the impact that the spread of noxious weeds is having on our great lands. We continue to strive to educate all age groups concerning the importance of noxious weed identification, prevention, eradication, and control options of all types. We realize the importance of using all the tools in the toolbox and have strived to improve the way in which we battle these silent invaders.

The CWMA encompasses approximately 870,000+ acres throughout Washington County. The major weed problems are Leafy spurge, Scotch thistle, and Rush skeletonweed. Large-scale efforts are being made each year to contain and control these species. New invaders which are threatening these lands include: Yellow starthistle, Dalmatian and Yellow toadflax, and all three varieties of knapweed. Revegetation has become a priority in numerous areas with private landowners seeding areas of their own volition after the neighborhood effort is complete. Nearly all CWMA on the ground projects are “Neighborhood Projects” with a landowner/manager acting as the Project Coordinator who organizes all resources including personnel, meals, equipment, materials and other resources needed to complete a project. Neighborhood Projects range in size from three landowners to a dozen with five volunteers to over 30. An application process (which is advertised in local papers) takes place late summer/early fall so all landowners have the opportunity to apply for assistance in their area. Board members volunteer their time to sift and score the projects at which time they are prioritized in the order funds will be applied for through the cost share grant.

Dave Springer serves as the Chairperson for this Weed Advisory Board with Bonnie Davis, County Weed Superintendent serving as the appointed recording secretary and grant administrator. The Weed Advisory Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Weed Department at which time they approve all claims related to CWMA activities in addition to conducting regular monthly business. If it were not for the dedication of these individuals this endeavor would not be possible. The Washington County Board of County Commissioners continues to be extremely supportive of our efforts and for this we thank them. Cooperation among all is the key to this weed management program.

A LOOK BACK AT 2003

Prevention/Certified Hay Exchange

LWRCWMA cooperators hosted the 3rd annual hay exchange to spread the word “how to prevent noxious weeds” while hunting and recreating. The exchange was held for a 2-day period in conjunction with the opening of general elk season. Highway 95, a major corridor for hunters made the exchange site an ideal location; signs were posted to alert hunters of the activity ahead. Two-ton of hay was traded in a 15-day period with only ¾ of a ton being done along the highway with the remainder being exchanged from the Weed Department. Cooperators working the exchange found that 97% of hunters already had certified hay or were taking an alternative feed supply for their animals.

ERADICATION

Yellow starthistle eradication efforts continued this past summer with volunteers revisiting sites and identifying one new infestation. One site was found to have escapes which cooperators located, mapped, and treated with herbicide. All plants were hand pulled before treatment, sites flagged and herbicide applied to ensure this intruder does not spread. Knapweed sites were visited, treated and mapped. Three Dalmatian toadflax outbreaks were found on the Highway 95 roadside right of way, which is a huge

concern since Highway 95 is a main travel corridor. All sites were treated with herbicide and mapped by GPS. Other suspicious sightings were investigated with no infestations found.

EDUCATION

Cooperators welcomed 2003 with the 3rd Annual Open House hosted by the Weed Department in conjunction with National Weed Awareness Week. Agency personnel, Weed Advisory Board members and County Commissioners were on hand to visit with attendees and discuss the accomplishments of the previous year as well as the plans for the upcoming year. Private applicator training and testing was once again sponsored by the LWRCWMA with some participants registering three months in advance of the class. New Project Coordinators as well as local residents and others from neighboring counties attended; with an excellent pass ratio for this three-night class. Board members sponsored a Poster Contest in local high schools to raise awareness and get a usable product for a future calendar and other promotions. The County Fair took on a new look focusing upon Leafy spurge and goat grazing including a diorama made by a board member complete with goats. Fair goers no longer shy away from this booth but make a point of stopping and talking to their neighbors as well as county employees about their weed problems. The Washington County Weed Warrior quarterly newsletter contained information from projects to upcoming activities and educational articles.

CONTROL PROJECTS

Waterways Cleanup

Once again a major waterway was focused upon in each community to prevent the spread of these silent invaders throughout the farmlands and irrigation systems which they serve. Project coordinators took charge of these projects enlisting the help of family, friends, neighbors and local water users to treat these sensitive areas as well as adjacent infestations which pose a threat to the waterways. Mother Nature toyed with cooperators a bit this year, postponing one project till afternoon and one twice at which point landowners said enough and went out on their own to fight the battle with the help of the CWMA who provided the herbicide.

Keithley Creek

Keithley Creek Road appeared to be the site of a great migration with 30 volunteers assisting with the 2-day Neighborhood Project in this creek drainage. Weed warriors battled with Rush skeletonweed, Scotch thistle, Leafy spurge, White top and isolated sites of Poison hemlock, Perennial pepperweed and Canada thistle. Private landowners, BLM, USFS, Idaho Power, Friends of the Weiser River Trail, Washington County Weed and our friends from the Lower Payette CWMA-Gem and Payette Counties were glad to assist with the battle being waged. Weed Advisory Board Member, Harry Soulen sponsored a RAC Grant Request in 2003 and received dollars for herbicides to be used in select project areas that will show benefit to the forest. This is one such project. The dollars received from ISDA for this project were transferred to the Weiser River Corridor, priority #14 for 2003. This project will continue in 2004 with the acreage and number of landowners expanded. RAC funding will be used to assist with herbicide purchases. LWRCWMA cooperators will assist however no money is being requested.

Sturgil Creek

The long trek was made to the Sturgil Creek Ranch in early June. The goal to complete eradication of Diffuse knapweed and Rush skeletonweed and control Scotch thistle infestations and Poison hemlock adjacent to Sturgil Creek. The objective to stop the thistle from reaching the steep peaks and keep the creek area clean. The area is extremely remote requiring cooperators to spend the night where they camped out and enjoyed home cooked meals prepared by Harry Soulen and his trusty ranch assistant Juan. An enjoyable evening was had by all with stories exchanged and new friendships made.

Crane Creek Rush Skeletonweed

In early June cooperators moved to the Crane Creek area to battle Rush skeletonweed on private and BLM property. Private landowners, BLM, Idaho Power, and Payette and Washington County Weed Departments assisted with this project. In addition to skeletonweed Scotch and Canada thistle and

isolated sites of Poison hemlock and Spotted knapweed were treated. ATV and pickup sprayers were used to apply the herbicides. GPS mapping was done to monitor the progress that is being made in this project area.

Crane Creek Cooperators mixing, loading and preparing for a long day in the field.



Open rangeland was the setting for the staging area for this Neighborhood Project.



Cove Cattle Rush Skeletonweed Project

In early September cooperators pulled together to battle Rush skeletonweed. This ranch encompasses 8,000 acres; 640 of which belong to Idaho Dept. of Lands with BLM managing lands adjacent to this neighborhood project area. IDL employees discovered Leafy spurge while spot spraying skeletonweed in the rangeland hills. Leafy spurge is not found in this area, so eradication efforts were used to stop this new invader. All sites were mapped by GPS so we may monitor these areas. Weed Department employees determined it was introduced into this area by birds perching on water troughs. In 2002 Diffuse knapweed was found scattered over 100+ acres, which were treated with eradication as the objective. Reconnaissance was done this past fall with less than ¼ acre total found. The landowner has done extensive reseeding on this rangeland with great success. It is expected within 2 years this area will be manageable by the landowner.

Highland Hills

Seven private landowners, their employees, families and the weed department rallied together to pledge their time, equipment and money to contain and control Rush skeletonweed and Leafy spurge which is spreading over the Highlands. This project was scheduled for a three day period however due to ambitious landowners it resulted in five days and the successful treatment of over 600 acres much of which was handsprayed. Some landowners were shocked by the grasses which have returned in some areas since the noxious weed competition has been reduced/eliminated. Others have been seeding for the past two years with over 200 acres of rangeland reclaimed to provide forage for their cattle. This project will be continued in 04.

Highland Hills Neighborhood Project Cooperators take this weed fighting detail very seriously.



Andrus Spotted Knapweed

The Andrus Wildlife Management Area was the sight of another battle with Spotted knapweed this past summer. Herbicide was provided by cost share, the county and IDF&G. Funds were carried over from

2002 for this project as weather prevented the project from being completed in 2002. Fish and Game land managers, Idaho Dept. of Lands, Idaho Power, Friends of the Weiser River Trail, United States Forest Service and the weed department assisted with these efforts. Fish and Game personnel missed the deadline application for 2004, but will continue the weed management plan and have already requested that LWRCWMA cooperators assist with application efforts. GPS mapping was done, however the data was lost a computer crash. This is a high altitude area that can only be accessed certain times of the year, which prevented the remapping of necessary sites.

White Top Hill

A new containment project began in an area known as White Top Hill located along Highway 95 north of Weiser in the heart of the Monroe Creek Drainage. Private landowners with the help of cost share and county dollars treated over 250 acres by aerial application as well as extensive additional ground treatments performed by the landowners. It is estimated that the treatment this past spring was 90% successful. The Project Coordinator is looking forward to continuing this Neighborhood Project in the coming year.

Sage Rock Central

This project encompasses 25,000 acres however not all are infected with noxious weeds. The weeklong schedule was rearranged once again due to weather still all project objectives were met. Project coordinators Jeff and Ida Widner strategically planned the group's actions: keep clean areas clean, pick up satellite infestations attempting escape, and gain control over the Scotch thistle in the Jenkins and Scotts Creek Drainages. In addition numerous satellite infestations of White top were treated and some Rush skeletonweed was identified treated and mapped by GPS. Private landowners, BLM and the weed department assisted with these efforts. Private landowners continued control efforts throughout the growing season and assisted the weed department with some reconnaissance work on Yellow starthistle sites. RAC funding was utilized in 03 and will be again in 04. 2004.



Landowner, Dan Moyle trades in his roping horse for this new style quarter horse.



Weed Dept. employees Brian and Clayton scale the rocks to stop White top.

CONTAINMENT

Weiser River Goats vs. Spurge Demonstration Project

Grazing Contractor, Ray Holes and goats made their debut on the Weiser River Corridor late May to begin the huge containment effort on Leafy spurge. Due to a wet spring the amount of spurge was out of this world, it was estimated 25% more Leafy spurge was present this past summer. This project was viewed negatively by a few nay-sayers, not because of the objective but due to an anti trail issue. However cooperators forged on and it did come to be. A total of 1289 nannies (just about all had at least one kid) grazed an estimated 1296 acres of river corridor in a period of 79 days. 900 goats worked the first leg of the trail grazing that area twice while a second herd worked the northern section covering most of that area two times. The first trek up the 38 miles of trail was a challenge, but the second trip went very quickly. The herds spent a five day period in dry lot corrals to allow for the flushing of their systems to ensure Leafy spurge is not spread elsewhere. Private landowners, BLM, Idaho Power, Idaho

Dept. of Lands, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, Friends of the Weiser River Trail, the Adopt a Goat Program (sponsored by FWRT), the Nature Conservancy, the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign, Ray Holes, the Board of County Commissioners, the Weed Department and numerous others assisted with funding for this alternative method of weed control. A public meeting was held late January with all adjacent landowners being invited. This provided a forum for questions to be answered and concerns were aired. In addition an Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign commercial was filmed along the Weiser River featuring goats as an alternative weed control methods. Grazing is not the cure and we realize this however grazing opened up areas for site-specific herbicide treatments, in addition to biological releases, and extensive mapping. Late November BLM, Idaho Power and weed department employees began reseeding efforts with 51.5 acres seeded at the end of day one and 17 the following day. Herbicide treatments with Plateau were planned along the river but due to extreme drought conditions, fire danger and an early killing frost we were unable to accomplish this in 03. Plateau will be applied in 04 and more seeding will be accomplished. Educating landowners and the public was a huge endeavor; educational activities included such things as a coloring book for youngsters, newspaper articles, Idaho Power filmed an E-News production for their employees, numerous local newspapers ran articles and it was the feature story in the Weed Warriors Newsletter. During the Washington County Fair, Weed Board members, Ray Holes and the weed department hosted a “Goat Roast” to give residents the opportunity to taste the meat as well as learn more about this long-term alternative form of weed control. This project was more successful than we ever could have imagined and will be continued in the coming year.



900 nannies with kids in tow munched their way up 38 miles of the river corridor twice to control and contain the dreaded Leafy Spurge.



These before and after photos of areas adjacent to the river are clearly a showcase for this successful demonstration project on focused upon the scenic Weiser River.

Capital Expenditures

LWRCWMA cooperators have arrived at projects more than once to find that something had been left behind in a different pickup. Late winter a 20-foot fully enclosed cargo trailer was purchased that would soon be transformed into the “Project Trailer”. The weed department crew designed shelving and cupboards to hold all vital tools and materials needed on a project. Landowners have commented very positively on this new addition and think it’s a great way to keep necessary supplies in one location and clean. Everything from safety gear, tables, chairs, project refreshments, etc. are stored in the trailer. A laptop computer was purchased and has been used to present Power Point presentations to groups about the LWRCWMA. Portable 2-way radios were purchased and have been a great safety tool as two years ago an elderly cooperator became stranded in a remote area and had to walk a considerable distance before a BLM employee found him.

Mapping

Mapping continues to be a vital part of the LWRCWMA, a total of 689 acres were mapped by GPS this past year. This was quite a challenge as the mapping computer crashed and the data collected through

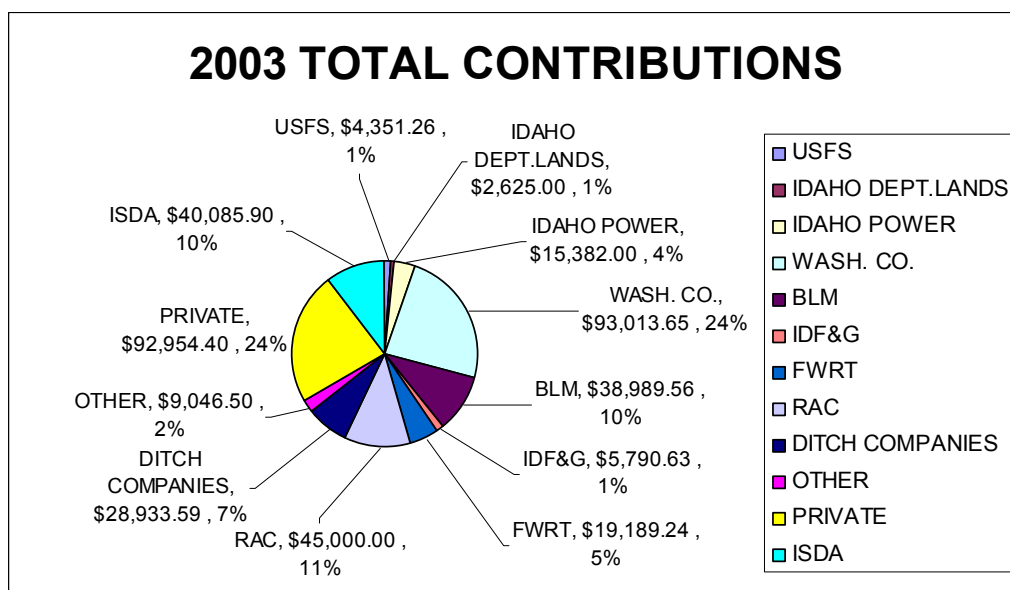
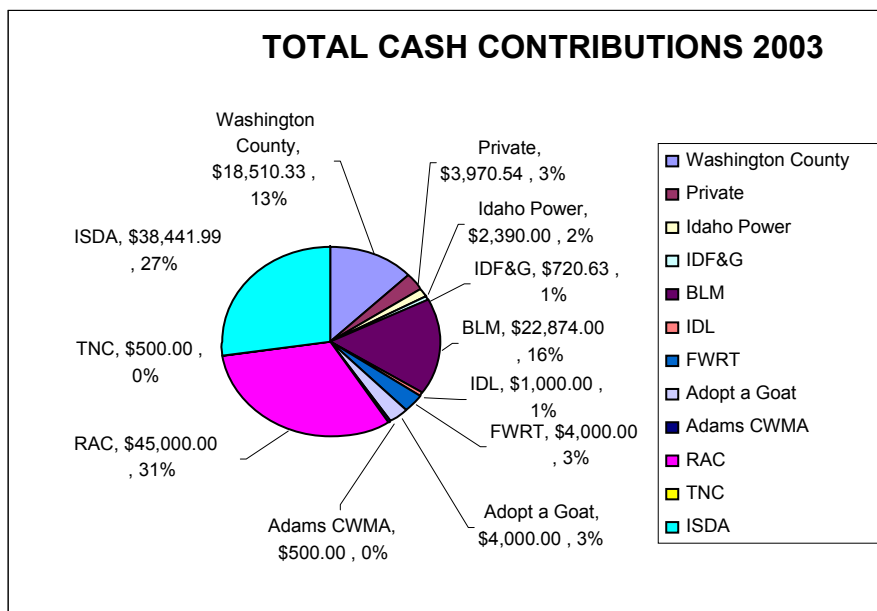
June was lost. The Weed Department foreman spent days traveling to project areas and recapturing precious data. We learned the hard way to always back up your data.

Herbicide Purchases

The LWRCWMA herbicide purchases for project areas exceeded \$66,000 for 2003. Products of choice included: Plateau, Escort, Amine 2-4D's, Transline, surfactants and plenty of Bulls Eye spray indicator.

Cash Expenditures

The following chart is a breakdown of all cash contributions totaling \$141,907.49 (which all herbicides are not included in). Lower Weiser River CWMA total contributions for 2003: \$395,361.73.



WHAT'S PLANNED FOR 2004?

The LWRCWMA will again undergo a boundary change. The Lower Payette CWMA announced it was disbanding leaving the Paddock area with no CWMA coverage. That portion will become a part of the Lower Weiser as of January 1, 2004.

Prevention and New Invaders will be the #1 priority in an effort to prevent new species from becoming established. The LWRCWMA cooperators will continue to check locations where these invaders have been known to exist and will be on the look out for any new sites.

A "Cooperator Appreciation Night" will highlight our educational activities for the coming year. Each cooperator involved in a Neighborhood Project will be invited and asked to bring a guest. A PowerPoint presentation will focus upon all 2003 projects and Project Coordinators will be encouraged to speak about their CWMA experience. Other educational activities will include a recertification class, poster contest, quarterly newsletters and the county fair booth.

Large scale efforts will focus upon Leafy spurge, Rush skeletonweed, and Scotch thistle in numerous rangeland areas. Private landowners will once again treat White Top Hill by air. Mid-May is the tentative application date however this method is extremely sensitive to weather conditions.

Private landowners, BLM and the weed department will begin containment of Scotch thistle in the Henley Basin area. This area is home to wildlife as well as sustaining numerous cattle herds which are critical to the livelihood of our ranchers.

Goats will once again graze Leafy spurge on the banks of the scenic Weiser River. This project will include biological releases, herbicide treatments, and revegetation efforts. Education will be a large part of this integrated weed program.

Cooperators are already preparing for the coming years activities and look forward to continuing the battle of the war against weeds.

APPENDIX 1

CWMA Steering Committee List							
Name	Title	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	email
Dave Springer	Chairman	2376 Valley Road	Midvale	ID	83645	208-414-2530	Wcapdave@ruralnetwork.net
Bonnie Davis	Recording Sec.	P.O. Box 865	Weiser	ID	83672	208-414-1950	wcweed@ruralnetwork.net
	Grant administrator						
Larry Anderson	Board member	3105 U.S. Hwy 95	Cambridge	ID	83610	208-257-3461	
Jim Eckhardt	Board member	1275 Jenkins Creek	Weiser	ID	83672	208-549-1754	
Bruce Gochnour	Board member	551 Day Road	Weiser	ID	83672	208-549-1929	
Calvin Hickey	Board member	2000 Cove Road	Weiser	ID	83672	208-549-1379	
Jerry Lunsford	Board member	2394 Keithley Creek	Midvale	ID	83645	208-355-2478	jlunsford@payettesd.k12.id.us
Dan Moyle	Board member	745 Olds Ferry Rd.	Weiser	ID	83672	208-549-1574	
Royce Schwenkfelder	Board Member	3381 Schwenkfelder	Cambridge	ID	83610	208-257-3591	rschwenk@ctcweb.net
Harry Soulen	Board member	1800 Fairmont Drive	Weiser	ID	83672	208-549-8212	
Tom/Marva Vogel	Board member	114 Paddock Valley	Payette	ID	83661	208-741-9177	

ADVISORY BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Name	Title	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Phone #	email
Bonnie Davis	Weed Super	P.O. Box 865	Weiser	ID	83672	208-414-1950	wcweed@ruralnetwork.net
Pat Kane	BLM	3948 Development Avenue	Boise	ID	83705	208-384-3407	Patrick_Kane@blm.gov
Jay Sila	Idaho Dept. Lands	555 Deinhard Lane	McCall	ID	83638	208-634-7125	jsila@pla.idl.state.id.us
Maura Lavery	USFS	P.O. Box 567	Council Cambridge	ID	83612	208-253-0114	mlavery@fs.fed.us
Jake Powell	IDF&G	4187 Hwy. 71		ID	83610	208-257-3363	jpowell@idfg.state.id.us
Marie Kerr	Idaho Power	P.O. Box 70	Boise	ID	83702	208-388-6722	mkerr@idahopower.com
Gary Holmstead	Idaho Power	P.O. Box 70	Boise	ID	83702	208-388-2369	gholmstead@idahopower.com
Jack Gant	ITD	8150 Chinden	Boise	ID	83707	208-334-8910	jgant@itd.state.id.us
Brenda Waters	ISDA	P.O. Box 7249	Boise	ID	83707	208-332-8667	BWATERS@agri.state.id.us
Russ Manwaring	RC&D Financial Admin.	1805 Hwy 16 Rm #2	Emmett	ID	83617	208-365-4475	wchrcd@idahorcd.org
Rick Michael	County Commiss.	1549 Scheloske Rd.	Weiser	ID	83672	208-549-3059	commish@ruralnetwork.net

APPENDIX II-PROJECT SUMMARIES

PROJECT NAME	WEED SPECIES	ACRES TREATED	ACRES INVENTORIED	ACRES REVEG
Keithley Creek Project	Rush skeletonweed	66.65	161	0
	Scotch thistle	307.4	800	0
	Canada thistle	2.15	78	0
	White Top	28.1	150	40
	Poison Hemlock	0.52	60	0
	Leafy spurge	115.93	477.5	0
	Hounds tongue	11.75	82	0
Sturgil Creek	Diffuse knapweed	0	25	0
	Rush skeletonweed	2.75	150	0
	Scotch thistle	166	395	0
	Canada thistle	1.5	30	0
	Poison hemlock	4.5	40	0
	White Top	0	4.5	0
	Burdock	0.5	20	0
Sage Rock Central	Hounds Tongue	3.75	30	0
	Rush skeletonweed	2	20	0
	Scotch thistle	414.5	3427	0
	Canada thistle	0.75	10	0
	Poison Hemlock	4.1	102	0
	White top	24.95	375	0
	Yellow starthistle	13.5	135	0
Waterways	Perennial pepperweed	1	50	0
	Jointed goatgrass	2	2	0
	Spotted knapweed	9	35	0
	Russian knapweed	0	0.5	0
	Rush skeletonweed	0.35	30.1	0
	Scotch thistle	472.65	1616.1	0
	Canada thistle	20	90	0
	Poison hemlock	21	75	0
	White top	8.3	25	0
	Leafy spurge	38.45	274.3	0
Cove Cattle	Yellow starthistle	0.1	15	0
	Perennial pepperweed	55	150	0
	Purple loosestrife	0	0.5	
Highland Hills	Diffuse knapweed	0.35	95	0
	Rush skeletonweed	158.9	1980	0
	Scotch thistle	6.5	40	0
	Leafy spurge	0.75	80	0
Highland Hills	Rush skeletonweed	387.95	4036.8	35

	Scotch thistle	53.2	400	0	
	Canada thistle	0.25	15	0	
	White top	16	60	0	
	Leafy spurge	180.35	2791.2	0	
PROJECT NAME	WEED SPECIES	ACRES TREATED	ACRES INVENTORIED	ACRES REVEG	ACRES GRAZED
Crane Creek	Rush skeletonweed	83.65	450	0	
	Scotch thistle	16.5	80	0	
	Canada thistle	0.25	100	0	
	Poison hemlock	0.25	20	0	
White Top Hill	Rush skeletonweed	21	100	0	
	Scotch thistle	93	200	0	
	White Top	356	550	0	
Andrus Spotted Knapweed	Spotted Knapweed	128.75	500	0	
	Rush skeletonweed	19.25	90	0	
	Scotch Thistle	0.25	200	0	
Weiser River Corridor	Leafy spurge	22.5	1500	70.5	1297
	Rush skeletonweed	1.5	60	5	
	Biological/spurge	30			
New Invaders	Diffuse knapweed	1	31	0	
	Russian knapweed	0.1	5	0	
	Scotch thistle	0.5	0.5	0	
	Rush skeletonweed	0	1	0	
	Leafy spurge	0.5	5	0	
	Yellow starthistle	2	67.25	0	
	Dalmatian toadflax	0.1	1	0	
	Salt Cedar (tamarisk)	1	5	0	
Biological	Purple Loosestrife	5	15	0	

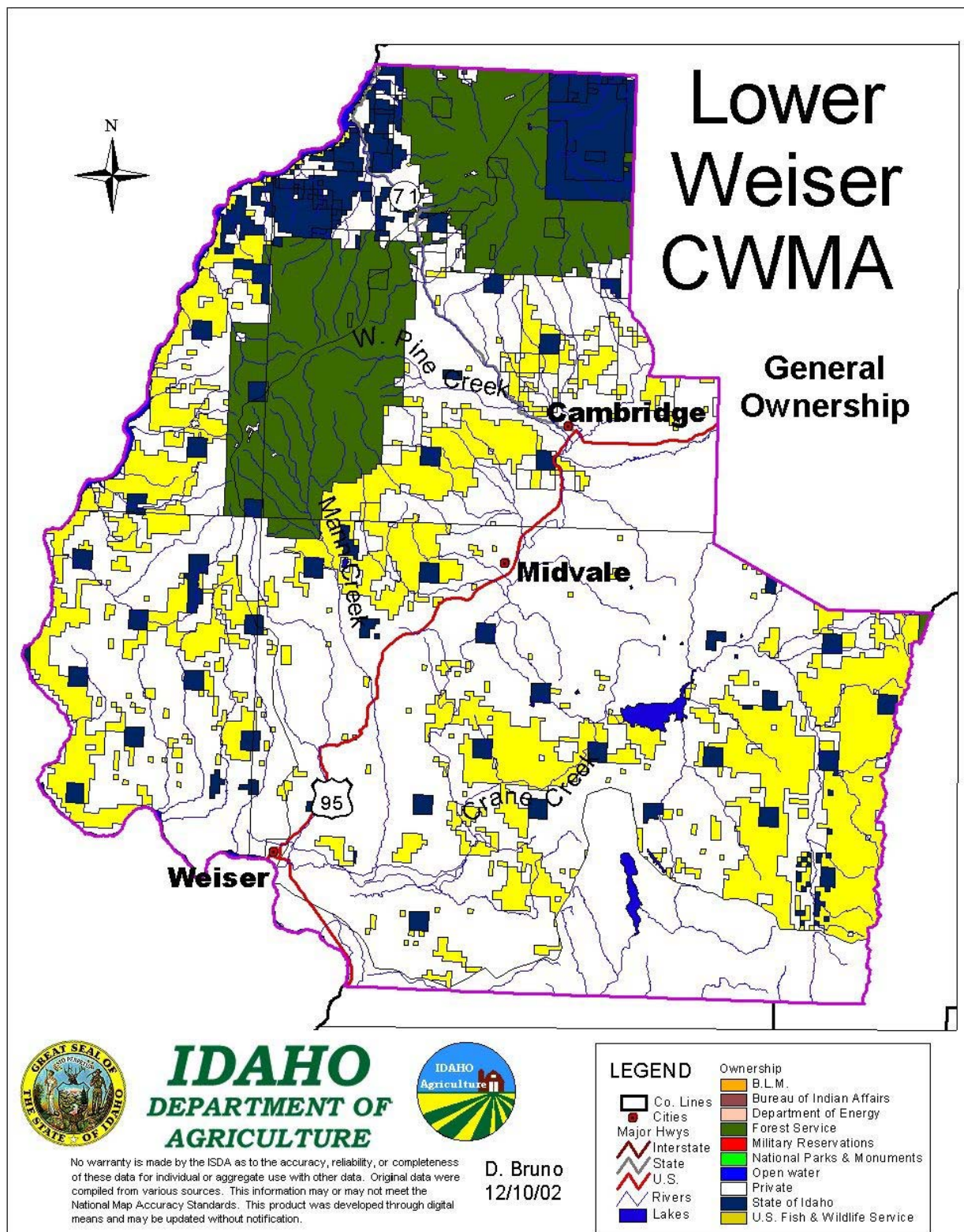
PUBLIC CONTACTS 25,000 PUBLIC CONTACTS

GPS/GIS MAPPING	WEED SPECIES	ACRES MAPPED
	Scotch thistle	131
	Rush skeletonweed	304
	Diffuse knapweed	3.5
	Spotted knapweed	19
	Russian knapweed	1.5
	Poison hemlock	2
	Salt Cedar	1
	Canada thistle	1
	Leafy spurge	170
	Perennial pepperweed	1.5
	White top	23
	Purple loosestrife	26
	Dalmatian toadflax	0.5

Yellow starthistle	5
TOTAL MAPPED	689

APPENDIX III-LOWER WEISER RIVER CWMA OWNERSHIP

Project maps are included with hard copy report submitted to ISDA as well as on CD.



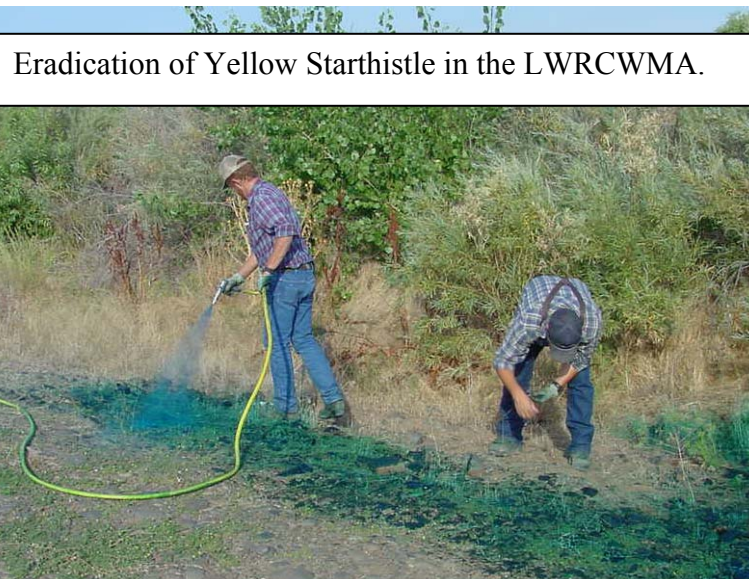
(Please see hard copy weed maps included with report.)

APPENDIX IV-PHOTOS



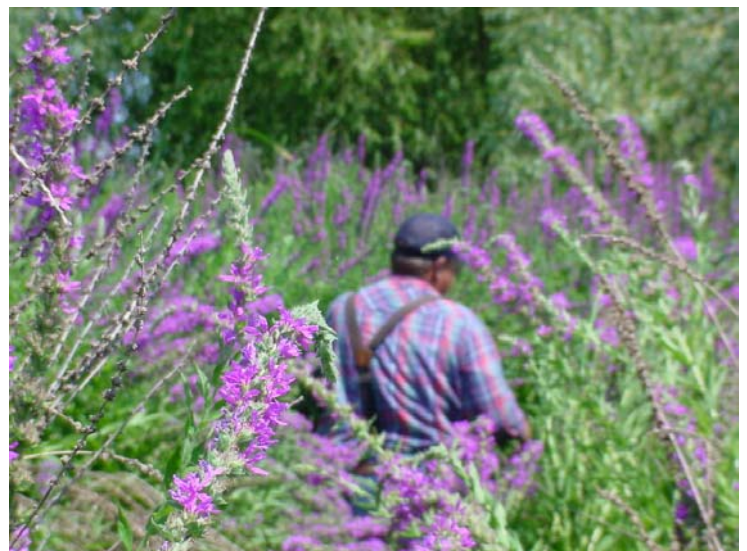
*Lower Weiser River CWMA Hay Exchange
Weed Department employees Brian Ratcliff & Jim Hickey wait
for their next hunter to stop and exchange non-certified product
for certified hay grown in Washington County.*

A few of the
LWRCWMA
2003 activities.



Eradication of Yellow Starthistle in the LWRCWMA.

In 2003 the LWRCWMA
released Galarucella for
the control of Purple
Loosestrife near the
confluence of the Snake
and Weiser Rivers.



6th graders enjoy the Soil Conservation sponsored Field Day.



The LWRCWMA featured goats, from roasting to roping a good time was had by all.



Many different tools were utilized to incorporate grass seed adjacent to the Weiser River in November.



APPENDIX V –PUBLICITY (please see hard copy attachments with submitted report.

